IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	T. Mueller et al.	Attorney Docket No.:	MITS124873
Application No.:	10/534,610	Art Unit: 2841 / Confirmation No:	6532
Filed:	May 11, 2005	Examiner:	D.E. Levi
Title:	MODULES FOR A MEASURING DEVICE AND MEASURING DEVICE		

RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

July 17, 2007

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This paper is filed in reply to the communication dated April 20, 2007, from the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application.

Claims 19-30 are pending in the application and remain unamended as submitted in connection with applicants' Response to Restriction Requirement dated October 19, 2006.

The rejection of Claims 19-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Porter (U.S. Patent No. 5,808,866) is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is requested to again reread Claim 19. Claim 19 of the patent application defines an assembly comprising plug-in measuring-device modules, which are connected via a plug-and-socket panel to an information-output device at a *front side* of the measuring device, wherein the measuring-device modules can be plugged in from a *rear side* facing away from the information-output device, characterized in that a *recess is provided in the front side* of the measuring device, through which an electrical connection, at least for a part of the plugged-in measuring-device module, is accessible.

In applicants' invention, the front side of the measuring device is defined by the position of the information-output device fixed on it. The measuring device modules are to be inserted *from the rear side*, while the recess to make accessible an electrical connection at least for a part

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of the plugged-in measuring-device modules is provided *in the front side.* Thus, the insertion side and the electrical contact access sides are *opposite* according to Claim 1.

In U.S. Patent No. 5,808,866 (Porter), the information-output device is not fixed on or not a (fixed) part of the measuring device (Porter, page 13, lines 41-46). Thus, the definition of the front side is not given by the position or orientation of the information-output device. The control and connection ports 32 are located *exclusively on the same side* as the electronic modules 31 are to be inserted in from. This side is defined as the front side (Porter, page 13, lines 30-41). Thus, the insertion side of the electrical contact access side are the *same in* Porter. Contrary, in the patent application, the insertion side for the measuring-device modules is defined as the rear side, while in Porter, the insertion side is defined as the front side.

Because of the fact that the electrical contacts in Porter are only located on the insertion side of the modules, while at least one is located on the opposite of the insertion side in the patent application, Porter does not disclose the assembly of the patent application. The arrangement of the present invention shows a significant improvement for the use of the measuring device. The invention allows changing electrical connections with a DUT, for example, on the front side opposing the insertion side of the measuring device, which simplifies its handling by also making it more comfortable.

It is also believed that the Examiner did not consider the true meaning of the dependent claims. Claim 21 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that for each measuring-device module to be accommodated, at least one guide element for the guidance of the measuring-device module is provided, wherein the at least one guide component provides a resilient, deformable guide element for the resilient mounting of the measuring-device module. In Porter, we indeed also find guide components or rails 29 for the guidance of modules to be inserted, but in contrast to the claimed invention, none of these guide components 29 provides a

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resilient, deformable guide element for the resilient mounting of a (measuring-device) module. Therefore, Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 21.

Claim 23 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that the resilient, deformable guide elements are formed by resilient tongues (14) arranged in a row. The guide components of Porter are basically monolithic rails 29, in contrast to guide elements formed by many pieces, such as resilient tongues (14) in the patent application. Because of this difference, Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 23.

Claim 24 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that the plug-in-socket panel is mounted in such a manner that it can be displaced within a receiving device in at least one plane perpendicular to the direction of insertion of the measuring-device modules. The invention of Claim 24 is a resilient mounting of the plug-in-socket panel to its receiving device, allowing some displacement of the plug-and-socket panel relative to the receiving device as response to a shock, for example, in contrast to an attachment as used in Porter (page 10, lines 8-9). Because of this difference, Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 24.

Claim 25 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that, in order to retain the measuring-device modules, a rear cover is provided for the measuring-device housing, which cover has at least one recess, through which connections of the measuring-device modules oriented toward the rear of the housing are accessible. Taking into account that the insertion side of the measuring-device modules is the "rear," Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 25.

Claim 26 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that insertion elements can be inserted into the cover of the measuring-device housing in order to cover the cooling air gaps between the measuring-device modules and/or blank elements. While in the patent application, in Claim 26, insertion elements are considered to be inserted to the cover

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itself, Porter does not propose and/or mention such elements or such a use for such elements for the cover(s) (38, 39). Thus, Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 26.

Claim 27 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that each measuring-device module is formed as a functional unit, and that data can be transferred via bus system either between various measuring-device modules or to the information-output device. Porter does not mention that the electronic modules can be formed as functional units. Without specifying that they respectively could or would function as a measuring device on their own, that is, forming a functional unit, only their function as electronic modules is mentioned. Thus, again Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 27.

Claim 28 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that the information-output device is designed as an input/output device. In contrast to the invention of the patent application in which the information-output device is an integral and fixed part of the measuring device, the device of Porter is neither an integral part of the measuring device, nor a fixed part of it (page 13, lines 41-46). Thus, Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 28.

Claim 29 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that at least one measuring-device module is designed as a computer module for controlling data transfer via the bus system. Porter does not foresee an electrical module to be designed as a connectable computer module for controlling data transfer. Thus, Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 29.

Claim 30 of the patent application defines a device characterized in that a plug-in power pack is provided, which is also connected to the plug-and-socket panel via an electrical plug-connection, wherein the power supply to the measuring-device module is provided via the bus system. Porter actually foresees a power pack to be *connected* with the socket panel, but the idea of Claim 30 is that the power pack is not only directly connected to, but also directly

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plugged into, the plug-and-socket panel. In Porter, the power pack is neither to be inserted to the card case which includes the plug-and-socket panel nor to be guided by guide components as foreseen for the electronic modules, nor to be directly plugged into the panel like the electronic modules in contrast to the power pack of the invention. Thus, Porter does not disclose the elements of Claim 30.

Because each and every element of Claims 19-30 are not shown in U.S. Patent No. 5,808,866 (Porter), it cannot anticipate and, therefore, render the invention unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to reexamine the application, to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims, to promptly allow the case, and pass it to issue.

If the Examiner should have any questions regarding the foregoing arguments, he is invited to call applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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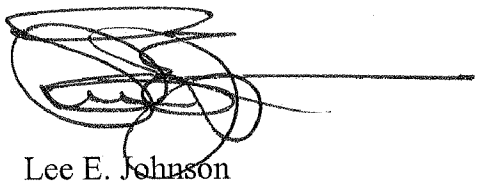

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